



Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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Wednesday, July 22, 1998

In the News

Daughter of couple jailed on marijuana charges arrested

NASHVILLE—The daughter of a couple who police say buried \$2.8 million in cash from marijuana sales has been arrested on drugs charges.

Donna Jean Hicks, 27, of Nashville was named in Davidson County grand jury indictments handed up Friday and was jailed in lieu of \$300,000 bond. She was charged with drug counts and money laundering.

Her parents, Charles Hicks, 46, and Donna Hicks, 44, both of Lebanon, have been jailed since March.

Clergy, business leaders face off on liquor issue

LAVERGNE—Some local ministers are taking to the pulpit to fight efforts to have citizens vote on allowing liquor by the drink.

The ministers warn that if the issue gets on the ballot this fall and passes, the town will quickly see the harmful effects of alcohol.

"I am opposed to it, and my church is completely behind me," said Carl Scarlett, pastor of Miracle Baptist, one of LaVergne's largest congregations.

Hunt for bombing suspect raises moral question

ANDREWS, N.C.—The search for abortion clinic bombing suspect Eric Rudolph has raised a moral dilemma for some in this remote mountain town. Should they help federal agents hunt him down or help the fugitive escape?

Just as divided is the local clergy, with some pastors urging church members to volunteer any information and others saying they would not condemn anyone who aided the 31-year-old survivalist.

"If a person's intention is to prevent [Rudolph] from being killed they may be right," said the Rev. Conrad Kimberrough, an anti-abortion activist and pastor of St. William's Catholic Church in Murphy. "I doubt he will be found to be an unprincipled killer."

Drugs a problem for Tour de France riders

(AP)—The Tour de France drug scandal took another turn today when the doctor for the ousted Festina team charged that riders were ordered by the team manager to pay for illegal substances.

"The riders were obliged to put part of their win bonuses into a 'black box' fund to buy banned substances," Arsene Ryckaert, lawyer for team doctor Eric Ryckaert, said.

Team manager Bruno Roussel was in charge of the system and riders decided what substances they wanted to take, Arsene Ryckaert said.

Pentagon second guesses CNN/Time

WASHINGTON—A Pentagon review has found no evidence to support allegations by CNN and Time magazine that U.S. troops used sarin nerve gas during a 1970 military operation in Laos designed to hunt down American defectors, Defense Secretary William Cohen said yesterday.

The allegations were made during a report on "Operation Tailwind" broadcast by CNN on June 7, followed by a report published in Time magazine under the bylines of two CNN employees. But by early July, the network retracted the story.

Cohen said in a statement. "We found no evidence to support the CNN/Time assertions on defectors or the use of Sarin nerve gas," Cohen said in a statement.

Know something noteworthy happening on campus? Call the Sidelines news desk at 898-2336 or fax us at 904-8487. Information can also be mailed to box 42.

Hickman Co. land said to be priceless

□ Chad Gillis

MTSU Foundation committee chairman George Gardner assured citizens at a public forum meeting Thursday that a 950-acre tract of land in Hickman County would not be sacrificed simply for money.

"Let me assure you that we are not going to destroy this property for the almighty dollar," Gardner said before opening the floor to public opinion.

Glenn Himebaugh, professor of journalism and environmental writer, said that parts of the northern United States have already been destroyed by chipmills and that the Cumberland Plateau was being chipped away at the present.

Himebaugh said he was opposed to all forms of logging, but if it must be done, he preferred selective cutting.

"I am here to speak out against any clear-cutting," Himebaugh said.

The land became a property of MTSU through the Tennessee Board of Regents in 1969. It was donated by Clifford and Pauline Starks. In May of

1997, the Foundation acquired rights to the land, which has an estimated worth of over \$700,000, for the sum of \$10.

The purpose of the Foundation is to receive money and property on behalf of the university, and to raise funds for the university and enhance its worth, Gardner said.

Many of the concerned citizens gave presentations on how the land could best be utilized.

Several graduates of MTSU, that have went on into the work force, attended the meeting to express concerns of their own, as well as the entities they now work for.

Cynthia Rohrbach of the Swan Conservation Trust said the land was home to 293 rare or threatened species and was in bad need of stewardship.

Rohrbach graduated with a master's degree in biology and come to the meeting to offer assistance from the Swan Trust.

Laura Alley, a graduate teaching assistant with the biology department, made statements on behalf of several

individual related to MTSU.

"We are opposed to any type of logging or harvesting," Alley said, adding that the group was also against any type of activity that would threaten the Stark land.

The Stark deed states that the donation was intended to be utilized for, but not limited to, farming purposes, forestry, wildlife study and recreational activities.

The word forestry is being interpreted as having two completely different meanings — one by the Foundation committee and one by land protection proponents.

Gardner said during a phone interview that the word forestry was similar to gardening in that the Foundation could selectively cut and replant trees for scholarship dollars.

Gary Wolf, professor of journalism and member of the Tennessee Forestry Defense Council, disagreed at the forum.

"I don't think by using the word forestry that the Starks meant cutting trees down, but preserving them," Wolf

said.

Wolf also said that the woodland was not old growth, but older growth. He suggested the university should maintain the protected state of the land and in 100 more years, the land would turn into actual old growth.

Anne Stark Clark, great niece of Clifford and Pauline Stark, attended the meeting to speak on behalf of the Stark family.

She said the Starks loved this university, and that the family believed Clifford and Pauline were attempting to protect this land when they donated it to MTSU.

The fate of this controversial woodland probably will not be known to the public until this fall or winter, Gardner said.

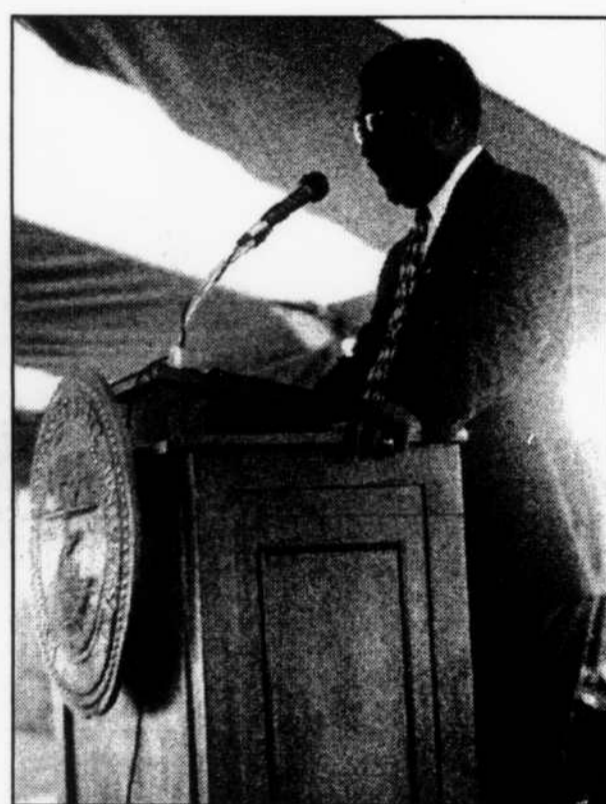
But it is already decided who will seal that fate.

"The university doesn't make the decision," Gardner said. "...The Foundation controls what will happen with this land."



photos by Katie Wise

President Walker speaks at the ground-breaking for the new student housing. Despite the rainy weather, faculty and staff showed up last Wednesday to recognize the commencement of yet another addition to the ever-growing campus.



One card, many uses

□ Staff Reports

MTSU's ID card identifies students, faculty, and staff for access to campus services and privileges but can be used for more than what most students realize.

Most students already use the ID card to cash checks; buy tickets to campus events; receive health services; vote in student government elections; and be admitted to athletic events. Other places the card is commonly used is the Student Recreation Center, campus computer labs, and residence halls. The ID card also serves as a meal and library card. ID cards are also needed to pick up any financial aid checks as well.

When money is deposited into a Raider Funds account, the ID becomes a debit card for use across campus. Use Raider Funds for purchases at Phillips Bookstore, to pay registration fees, do laundry, buy a snack or soft drink at most campus vending machines, or purchase meals at any of the food service locations on campus. To activate a Raider Funds account, go by the cashier windows in Cope Administration Building. Contact the Business Office if you have questions about Raider Funds.

The ID office is located at Murphy Center, track level, northwest corner. Hours at the ID office during non-registration times are 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For evening students, ID cards are made in Peck Hall Room 101D. Call 898-5611 for office hours.

If you lose your ID card, the card will be invalidated as soon as you report the loss by calling the ID office at 898-5523, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After hours, report a loss to MTSU Public Safety. Come by the ID office during regular office hours to have a replacement card made. There is a \$10 fee for replacement of lost or stolen IDs. If your card breaks, bring the damaged card to the ID office.

For more information about MTSU IDs, call 898-5523

Carnival cruise ship towed back to port following fire

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Fire broke out in a laundry aboard a cruise ship that had just set sail from Miami on Monday with nearly 2,600 vacationers aboard, burning three lower decks before crews extinguished it and the vessel was towed back to shore.

At least 60 people were injured, most of them suffering from smoke inhalation and one with an undisclosed heart problem. At least 10 people were taken to hospitals, including two from tugboats that pulled the ship back to the Port of Miami, where it docked

early Tuesday.

There were about 3,500 people — vacationers and crew — aboard the ship.

The blaze broke out in a crew laundry. At one point flames shot from lower portholes and smoke billowed from the ship for several hours.

"It wasn't that noticeable at first," said passenger Sumpter Flakes, 56, of Fort Lauderdale. "One of the other passengers said the ship was on fire and we still didn't believe it."

His brother, Robert Flakes, 62, of Tallahassee, added: "The fire was a lot

more intense and widespread than we ever imagined while we were on the boat. They tried to keep us calm."

Long plumes of water spewed from hoses aboard tug boats as the flames blackened the sides and rear of the ship, which had just set out on a four-day trip to Cozumel, Mexico. The first stop was to be Key West.

"We are fortunate the Ecstasy is close to shore," said U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Marcus Woodring.

Crews were able to seal off a

Please see **CRUISE**, page 2

Greek Rush expecting high numbers

□ Staff Reports

More than 700 men and women are expected to participate in this year's Greek Rush activities which begin just after classes start.

Students interested in joining sororities and fraternities in the Panhellenic and Inter-Fraternity Council systems can participate in Rush activities and attend GreekFest98 in order to learn more about the campus' Greek system, said Vic Felts, Greek Life director.

"Registering for and participating

in Rush is not an obligation to join a sorority or fraternity," Felts said. "Rush is, however, an excellent way to meet a lot of people."

GreekFest98 will be held 7-10 p.m. Aug. 19 on the sundeck of the Campus Recreation facility and is a good atmosphere for meeting students involved in the Greek system and others who will be participating in Rush.

There will be free food, prizes and a band playing for everyone's entertainment, Felts said.

Sorority Rush is scheduled for Aug.

27 through Sept. 2. Deadline for registering to participate is Aug. 21. There is a \$25 fee to register.

Fraternity Rush is scheduled Aug. 31 through Sept. 5. Deadline for registering is Aug. 28. There is no fee to register.

Anyone interested in registering may go by the Greek Life Office in Room 310 of the Keathley University Center. The office is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Felts said there will also be tables

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OPINIONS

Where are all the flag burners? Read about Free speech and respecting the nation's flag, page 4

FEATURES

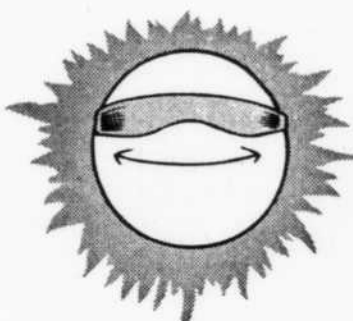
Is 'Saving Private Ryan' all it has cracked up to be? Also, LeAnn Rimes wants to be a movie star, page 5.

SPORTS

MTSU may move into a new conference as early as 1999. Jim Horton moves to Jacksonville University, page 7.

WEATHER

HOT & HUMID
Temperatures will be in the mid-to high 90s with a slight chance of thunder showers



Activists urge greater AIDS prevention

WASHINGTON (AP) - Lulled by life-prolonging AIDS drugs, the nation has slacked off vital efforts to keep American—especially young people—from catching the deadly virus in the first place, say AIDS activists who are demanding major increases in HIV prevention work.

Activists called Monday for millions more in spending on HIV education, televised condom ads and outreach to at-risk teen-agers via the Internet, saying such AIDS prevention programs are a "virtual vaccine."

"If there were a medical vaccine for AIDS, imagine the forces mobilized to deploy it," said Daniel Zingale of AIDS Action. "The irony is that today we have a virtual vaccine—prevention and education—and those forces are paralyzed."

Saving lives isn't the only issue. At least 40,000 Americans every year

catch HIV, adding \$6.2 billion in lifetime treatment costs to the nation's health care bill, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Monday.

"AIDS drugs cost \$40 a day" and do not cure the disease, added Zingale. "This condom costs 40 cents. Our plan today will not only save lives, it would save dollars."

The CDC hasn't won a budget increase to fight new infections in three years, and some people most at risk of HIV have become complacent, activists said. For example, two-thirds of gay men say they've had unsafe sex at least once in the last 18 months, concluded a study presented at last month's World AIDS Conference.

Also Monday, Secret Service agents arrested 10 other AIDS activists who briefly chained themselves to desks in the office of

President Clinton's top AIDS adviser to protest the administration's refusal to federally fund needle exchange programs.

Experts say 33 people a day catch HIV from dirty drug needles or sex with addicts. Scientific studies show letting addicts swap used needles for clean ones lowers the risk of HIV's spread. Some 110 U.S. needle exchanges operate with local or private funding, but communities say they need federal tax dollars to reach more addicts. Clinton refused in April, sidestepping a political fight.

"To have the United States government play politics with people's lives—it's just not OK anymore," said Kenneth Vail, who runs a needle exchange program in Cleveland, after his arrest.

Separately, AIDS Action gathered public health officials and AIDS

workers who called for a 25 percent increase in CDC's \$634 million budget for AIDS education and prevention.

Congress has added millions to government programs that pay for drugs for AIDS patients, but increasing AIDS prevention money significantly is considered a tougher fight, particularly in view of a new conservative campaign against homosexuality.

But HIV infects across-the-board, Dr. Helene Gayle, CDC's AIDS chief, said Monday. Some 26 percent of HIV-infected young people caught the virus through heterosexual intercourse, she noted. "If people in leadership positions care about the future of this nation, you've got to care about HIV prevention," she said.

Activists also called for: -TV networks that air programs rated "S" for sexual content to also

allow condom ads to air during those programs.

-Doctors, clinics and hospitals to begin using a new 10-minute HIV test immediately. An older test takes about a week to get results, and thousands of Americans who get tested each year never return to learn if they're infected. People who don't know they are infected can unknowingly spread HIV to others.

-AIDS education to reach more teen-agers by creating an AIDS prevention web site that links to popular teen Internet sites.

-CDC to launch a campaign persuading more people to get tested. An estimated 50,000 people in New York State have HIV and don't know it, says a computer model by Gay Men's Health Crisis.

CRUISE

continued from page 1

section of the ship to prevent the fire from spreading, Woodring said.

A 10-member team from the National Transportation Safety Board was en route to Miami to investigate the blaze.

At the height of the fire, many of the more than 2,575 passengers wore orange life vests as they assembled calmly on the upper decks at the front of the 855-foot-long ocean liner. No lifeboats were lowered into the water.

"At first there was a little bit of panic, but now it's OK," passenger Roger Sevalski told WSVN-TV.

The U.S. Coast Guard first saw the smoke coming from the rear of the \$275 million vessel and radioed the ship, petty officer Jeff Murphy said.

"They were not aware at the time of the smoke," which was blowing in the opposite

direction of the bridge, he said.

Bob Dickinson, president of Carnival Cruise Lines, said passengers were allowed to stay on board overnight until they could make other travel arrangements.

"Those who want to leave will be assisted with hotel and air arrangements," he said at a news conference.

He said passengers would receive a full refund of the Cozumel cruise and a free cruise in the future.

The ocean liner, which is owned by Miami-based Carnival Corp., has 10 decks. It has a regular crew of 920.

A fire in an electronic control room aboard Carnival's cruise ship Celebration in June 1995 left the ship without main power and adrift just southeast of the Bahamian island of San Salvador. Carnival Cruise Lines dispatched Ecstasy to rescue the more than 2,500 people aboard.

GREEK

continued from page 1

set up periodically outside of Phillips Bookstore or in the KUC courtyard for registration purposes.

Men and women who have registered will be invited to attend a series of parties hosted by the sororities and fraternities.

For the women, the first round is an open round where registrants attend parties hosted by all the sororities they are interested in.

During the second round, the sororities extend invitations to those women they are interested in having as members. During the subsequent rounds, sororities begin to narrow the invitation lists to ultimately determine who will be extended a bid.

Men generally attend mixers of the fraternities they are interested in and continue to return to those fraternities until bids are extended.

The United Greek Council will hold its Rush activities later in the fall, Felts said.

'Take a break'

Words of wisdom as heat bakes the country

(AP)—As much of the country suffered through unrelenting heat, the mantra of the midsummer meltdown became a command: Slow it down.

Texas officials urged people to check up on the sick and the elderly, while deputies ventured into remote neighborhoods with water and fans in an effort to prevent more heat-related deaths. Today's forecast in Dallas called for the 16th straight day of temperatures above 100.

Two more heat-related deaths were confirmed Monday in Dallas, bringing the total to 22. The searing heat has also contributed to at least 22 deaths in Louisiana, 11 in Oklahoma and one each in California, Arizona and Missouri.

In addition, 43 illegal immigrants have died this year from heat-related causes crossing the border from Mexico into Texas.

The deadly heat was forcing nearly everyone to take it easy.

In Lawton, Okla., Army trainees at Fort Sill must rest for 30 minutes every hour. Road work was at a standstill in Nebraska, where temperatures reached 107 in some parts on Monday.

"You can't work yourself too hard," said James Harris, a highway supervisor working south of Nashville, Tenn. "You take a break and get in the truck awhile and get some air conditioning. Taking a long lunch helps too."

In eastern Oklahoma, fans and mist-spraying devices ran full blast at poultry houses to keep birds cool.

"When the temperature reaches 90 degrees or above in the house, the birds begin to stress," poultry farmer Marinell Strain said. "When it reaches above 95 degrees, they begin to die."

In humid Illinois, where

temperatures were expected to be in the mid-90s today, Illinois Power asked its 550,000 customers to conserve electricity by setting air-conditioning thermostats to 80 degrees or higher or turning the units off.

In drought-stricken South Carolina, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman visited Clayton Lowder Jr.'s 2,000-acre Sumter County farm of stunted cotton and blackened corn.

Glickman assured farmers he would help find a better way to protect them from natural disasters, suggesting a mix of crop insurance and traditional disaster assistance.

In Richmond, Va., 17-year-old Derek Myer had enough of house painting and went for a cool soak in the James River. The heat was just too much, he said.

"It takes all your energy away," Myer said.

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Father of Clay S. Taylor, Shannon Taylor Davenport, Cameron Taylor Woodcock and Grandfather of three

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Interim City Judge of Lavergne 1986-1987
Member of Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association

MILITARY
U.S. Navy 1966-1972
Vietnam Veteran
Underwater Demolition SEALS
U.S. Naval Reserve 1972-1995 Cryptology
Recalled during Desert Storm- 1991
Captain (USNR-Retired)
Life Member of Disabled American Veterans

EDUCATION
Central High School- 1962
United States Naval Academy- 1966
University of Tennessee, College of Law- 1975

Circuit Judge August 6th

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Accused denies charges of murder

Thomas Gilmour accused of bomb attack of three boys

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — A 23-year-old man appeared in court today on charges of murdering three young brothers in a firebomb attack during sectarian violence set off when Protestant marchers were stopped from parading through a Catholic neighborhood.

Thomas Robert Garfield Gilmour of Ballymoney denied the charges, police said during a hearing in Belfast Magistrates Court. Gilmour had no criminal record and denied being a member of any paramilitary organization, police said.

The Quinn brothers — Richard, 11, Mark, 10, and Jason 9 — were killed in a

July 12 arson attack on their home in Ballymoney, 40 miles northwest of Belfast.

A number of other people are being held for questioning in the case, but police declined to say how many were being detained.

Gilmour was ordered jailed pending a court appearance Aug. 12.

Police investigating the Quinn slayings have said the attack was linked to a rise in tensions in Northern Ireland caused by a violent standoff outside Portadown, 25 miles southwest of Belfast, between Protestant marchers and the armed authorities blocking them from parading through the Catholic neighborhood.

Police said they believe the family was targeted because the boy's mother, 29-year-old Chrissie Quinn, was a Catholic who lived with a Protestant boyfriend.

Stunned by the killings of the three

boys, some leaders of the Orange Order fraternal group that organized the march called for an end to the confrontation between marchers and security forces. The standoff began July 5. The number of protesters encamped at the police blockade has gradually dwindled since the attack.

In Londonderry, meanwhile, the British government reopened an inquiry into the 1972 "Bloody Sunday" killings, in which British soldiers opened fire, killing 13 Catholic protesters. A review panel at the time ruled the shootings were justified, which angered many Catholics and provided a rallying point for the Irish Republican Army's campaign against British rule. Britain began the new investigation as a concession intended to promote the peace process.

Testimony to the tribunal is expected to begin Friday.

Scientists seeking life beyond Earth

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Scientific discussion of extraterrestrial life has moved beyond the question of whether it exists to where and how we should look for it.

More than 100 researchers gathered at NASA Ames Research Center Monday for a three-day conference to consider those issues. The researchers plan to begin developing a five-year roadmap for study and exploration.

Participants, energized by discoveries that suggest we may not be alone, acknowledge that their discussions and plans may seem odd. But they believe it is important to share their excitement with the public.

"Some of the things we'll be talking about over the next 20 years will sound like science fiction to most people," said David Morrison, a NASA astronomer and co-chair of the conference. "It's our job to make it sound like reality."

Sessions will examine the biological basis for distant life, technological challenges in detecting it and possible missions — based on Earth or in space — to find it. Participants hope to reach consensus and draw up a report in the next couple of months.

A number of discoveries in recent years are whetting scientists' appetite. For instance, researchers have found that life on Earth can

exist under extreme conditions — in blocks of Antarctic ice, in hot springs, inside rocks. If microbes can live there, perhaps they could live on seemingly dead planets.

Data from the Galileo spacecraft detected signs of water under the surface of Europa, a moon of Jupiter. Another discovery exciting astrobiologists are possible fossils of bacteria inside a Mars rock, although that finding is in dispute.

Causing the most excitement, however, is the discovery of planets beyond our own solar system. Scientists believe some, if they meet the right conditions, could support life.

"Together they make an

amazing statement — life may not be uncommon," said NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin, who addressed the audience via videotape. "We may not be alone."

Astrobiologists also are looking at whether Earth organisms can be adapted to survive on Mars or other places human beings might go.

Morrison and others believe nonscientists would support the search for extraterrestrial life.

"We're trying to answer fundamental questions people have always asked," he said. "And if we can find the answers, I think people will think that their money is well spent."

UAW president says union, GM in 'all-out war'

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — United Auto Workers President Stephen Yokich says his union and General Motors Corp. are in "an all-out war" reminiscent of the battle the union won for recognition in 1937.

Union leaders meeting in Flint warned GM that the UAW remains prepared to continue its strikes to win the war of attrition between the world's largest automaker and its biggest union.

Yokich, speaking to reporters after a pair of rallies Monday, said GM's recent financial success has emboldened its top executives to return to the company's old ways of fighting the union.

GM has lost more than \$1.2 billion worth of production because of strikes at a pair of Flint parts plants. The strikes have led to the shutdown of 25 assembly plants and partial or full shutdowns of more than 100 parts plants across North America. About 185,000 workers have been idled, in addition to the 9,200 strikers.

"The company's got to get its culture back to where it belongs," Yokich said. "This is 1998. They have a 1937 culture running right now."

A sit-down strike in Flint in 1937 led GM to recognize the UAW as its workers' bargaining agent.

UAW Vice President Richard Shoemaker, who seemed unduly pessimistic last month when he said the strikes could last into August, said Monday that the strikes could even go into September.

"The longer this goes, Labor Day looks more and more like a possibility," he said.

GM spokesman Gerry Holmes said the company was disappointed with the union leaders' outlook. "We'd like to have this resolved as soon as possible, and we've said that all along."

Flint native son and filmmaker Michael Moore attended a rally at the Delphi Flint East parts complex. His 1989 film "Roger & Me" was a darkly humorous look at how GM's plant closures devastated Flint in the 1980s.

Moore said GM had underestimated the resolve of Flint workers.

"I think it's a meltdown for GM," he said before addressing the crowd. "They have miscalculated here — a big, big mistake. People here saved their money. They can hold out a long time."

The rallies and summit came one day after UAW members in Spring Hill, Tenn., voted to authorize what would be the first strike at GM's Saturn Corp. subsidiary.


Mike Bennett, shop chairman for UAW Local 1853 at the Saturn plant, said he expected UAW leaders would give negotiators another 30 days before calling a strike.

The small-car plant has about 7,200 union workers and is the only GM assembly operation still running at normal production in the United States, using stockpiled parts. Talks were to resume today.

Negotiations in Flint were also to resume this morning. Union and GM lawyers were scheduled to brief a federal judge on their plans to meet with an independent arbitrator on Wednesday regarding GM's claim that the strikes are illegal.


Meanwhile, a semiannual owner-loyalty study released Monday by The Polk Co. showed GM had the most loyal customers of the major automakers.

"The reality is even the most loyal customers won't stay loyal forever," GM marketing spokeswoman Anne Marie Sylvester said. "It's just common sense. If you need a vehicle you need a vehicle."



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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Thomas Jefferson

Editorials

Do-it-yourself university

Everything takes too long.

A redlight takes too long. The line at the supermarket takes too long. Driving during rush hour takes too long. Cooking spaghetti noodles takes too long.

Some might say that your college years are the best—the most memorable time of your life. It is also said that the college years go by quickly. However, that doesn't seem to be the case when it comes to filing all the right forms to be accepted, to attend and to graduate from a university.

Applications, loan forms, declaration of major, change of major, upper-division forms, intent to graduate, ACT-Comps, final exams, a thesis and whatever else there is to fill out, turn in and think about make college a hassle.

No one said college should be easy, but no one tells you about the lines, the waiting, the filling-out, the complications. It can make a little freshman's head spin.

Can't it be easier? Do you actually have to say, "Biology is my major," after taking three years of Biology classes? Do you really have to file an upper-division form even if you've been taking upper-division courses for two years? Shouldn't TRAM keep track?

Unfortunately, it doesn't. Nothing is that easy.

We can't rely on any computer or records system to keep track of what classes we take, what major we choose or when we intend to graduate. We have to spell it out. We have to do the dirty work.

Along with all the pencil-pushing, we are required to take too many hours—more than schools like Princeton and the University of Georgia. Most colleges only require around 120 hours to graduate, whereas MTSU, known now as a five-year college, requires 132.

Financial aid doesn't offer any comfort either. The shoebox-size office, responsible for handling over two-thirds of the student body's funding, can't ever seem to get a check returned by the first designated time. As long as the money comes in... right?

Sit tight, dear freshmen. You'll be here a while.



Throw down flag in 'rights' debate

□ Clarence Page/CPS

Take your places, everyone. It is time for our perennial flag dance again.

Or, more accurately, our flag BURNING dance.

Ever since the Supreme Court overturned an existing federal ban on flag burning in 1990, 11 months after overturning a similar Texas ban, Congress and most of the states have been trying to pass a constitutional loophole to our elegantly simple First Amendment, just to "protect" the flag.

And those of us who think free speech is more important than throwing people in jail for burning a piece of cloth trot out our familiar free-speech arguments against it.

And the dance goes on. So far, the free-speech side has been winning, but only by narrow margins. Both Supreme Court decisions were by 5-to-4 votes.

Had Robert Bork been confirmed, he has said, the decisions would have gone the other way.

In 1995, the last time a flag-protection amendment came before the Senate, it fell short of the necessary two-thirds vote by a mere three votes.

This summer we have Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, urging the judiciary committee which he chairs to send a Flag Protection Act he is co-sponsoring to the floor for a vote.

The House passed a similar measure on June 12. It passed by a vote of 310 to 114, including nearly half of the House Democrats.

And 49 state legislatures have petitioned Congress to enact a flag-protection amendment.

No question that flag protection

is a popular idea. Polls show that. But popularity doesn't make it the right thing to do. At best, it is a solution without a problem. At worst, it is a solution almost certain to create more problems.

For example, flag burning has hardly become a national fad since the Supreme Court legalized it. But it quite likely will become more popular as soon as the government bans it again. Flag burning works as a form of political protest precisely because the flag is so widely venerated. The more we venerate it, even to the point of passing a special loophole to the First Amendment to "protect" it, the more attractive it becomes as an object to destroy in protest.

Unfortunately, when it comes to various forms of speech, members of Congress find it much easier to fight for tobacco advertising and big campaign contributions than for flag burning. Flag burners don't have much of a lobby.

The pro-loophole movement, by contrast, has the American Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization, which has built a coalition of business and civic groups called the Citizens Flag Alliance to help it flood the media and politicians with pro-amendment arguments.

That's OK. A healthy exchange of ideas is what free speech is all about.

Unfortunately, the so-called flag-protection movement aims to suppress speech. In its attempt to protect the Red, White and Blue, it would desecrate the freedom and liberty for which it stands.

Hatch's proposed amendment wiggles around the free-speech

objections by avoiding an outright ban. Instead, it reads simply, "The Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

It would begin the debate, not end it, he said. "This amendment is not self-executing," Hatch assures us.

I wish I shared his confidence. Granted power, legislators tend to use it. This locomotive is not likely to stop at the first station. After legislators have devoted this much time and energy to punching holes in the Bill of Rights, they might just decide to punch a few more.

But even if they don't, arresting people for burning their own flag cheapens the flag. Around the world, Old Glory symbolizes America's commitment to freedom and liberty, a commitment that has helped make this the world's richest and most powerful nation.

I don't like flag burning. But flag burners don't frighten me nearly as much as those who would take away their freedom do. A ban on flag burning, enacted out of love, would send a message of fear. It would show we, like the regime in Beijing and the other totalitarian states, will tolerate speech only until it offends state power.

No one ever promised that free speech always would be neat and orderly. It gets messy sometimes, especially when the speech is inaccurate, fanatical or inflammatory. But, the framers of the Bill of Rights were willing to take the chance. We should share their faith. Compared to the alternatives, it has worked quite well.

Got a gripe? Let us hear about it.



E-mail your letters to the editor to "Sidelines" at: stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu

Sidelines

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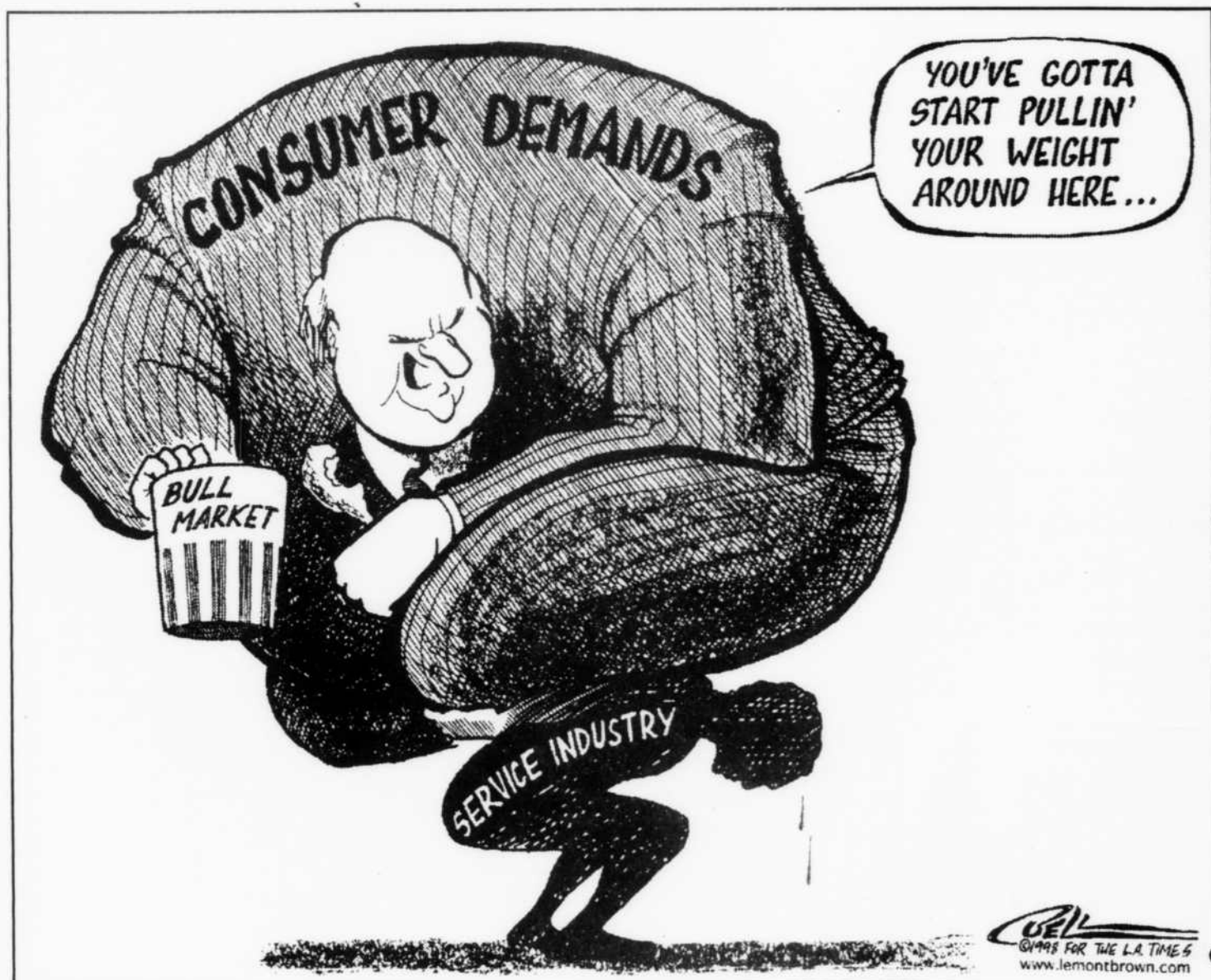
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Why are TV networks so reluctant to say they're sorry?

NEW YORK--In retracting its story about U.S. military use of nerve gas during the Vietnam War, CNN said something you don't often hear from television news divisions: We're sorry. We were wrong.

Television's willingness to admit mistakes is being watched more closely this summer in the midst of a bad stretch for the news media. Conservative and liberal watchdog groups on the media agree on little but this: Owning up to errors has always been hard for networks.

"They do 22 minutes of nightly newscasts and hours and hours of prime-time news. How often do you see them make corrections? It's virtually nil," said Jeff Cohen, director of the liberal Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, based in New York.

Television news shows make corrections "as seldom as they can manage," agreed Reed Irvine, founder of the conservative Washington organization, Accuracy in Media. "It's very tough for them to acknowledge or admit to errors."

Major retractions happen about as often on network television as El Nino. News executives say that's a reflection of pre-broadcast standards far more rigorous than those applied by CNN on the nerve gas story.

NBC's last major retraction came in 1993, when the network admitted it had faked an explosion in a "Dateline NBC" report on truck safety. ABC in 1995 apologized three times for alleging that tobacco companies manipulated the level of nicotine in cigarettes; that was part of a lawsuit settlement with the companies.

CBS's top executive for monitoring broadcast standards can't remember that network's last major retraction.

Few errors, however, are on such a large scale. Many errors are relatively minor, or don't become fully apparent until later. It's how these errors are handled that says much about the industry.

Unlike many newspapers and magazines, few television outlets set aside a specific spot to correct errors. Some executives say there's not enough time on air.

The first days of the Monica Lewinsky case, with the hyper-competitive news world operating in full steam, became a measuring stick of the importance of accuracy. As the new magazine Brill's Content reported in meticulous detail, there were many cases of reporters following blind alleys and blurring less-than-solid information.

Brill confronted Newsweek's Howard Fineman, who on MSNBC talked about his magazine hearing a tape of President Clinton's voice on Lewinsky's answering machine. There's still no evidence that such a tape exists.

"Television is definitely more loosey-goosey than print," Fineman told Brill later. "And I have loosened up myself, sometimes to my detriment ... and said things that were unfair or worse ... It's like you're doing your first draft with no layers of editors and no rewrites and it just goes out to millions of people."

Just last week, NBC's Tim Russert reported on the "Today" show that "people close to Ken Starr" believe that the Secret Service may have helped conceal relationships for the president. By noon, when appearing on MSNBC, Russert cited "congressional sources" for the story. He didn't acknowledge that any change had been made.

Top executives believe it's unfair to say television won't own up to errors. That doesn't take into account the efforts made to be accurate, they say.

'Private Ryan' may not be award-winning

□ Hillel Italic/AP

More than 20 years after terrorizing teen-agers with "Jaws," Steven Spielberg bloodies the waters for adults with "Saving Private Ryan," a World War II epic of savage, near-surreal reality.

Set over a 10-day period that begins with the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, "Saving Private Ryan" features two long battle scenes that confirm Spielberg as the most technically gifted director of his time. They're as graphic, and as disturbing, as anything put on screen, so disturbing even Spielberg backs off from what they reveal.

Tom Hanks stars as Capt. John Miller, the frightened leader of an eight-man squad that has mission of tracking down a missing soldier, Pvt. James Ryan (Matt Damon). His three older brothers were killed in action and Miller's job is to tell him he's going home.

The battles happen near the beginning and near the end of the movie, taking up about an hour. They're filmed in documentary style: real time, handheld camera, no music. Then again, Spielberg doesn't need music. He arranges the sounds of war into his own symphony, of bullets ping-pong off metal and severing flesh, of soldiers vomiting and screaming, of blood pouring out of helmets and dirt exploding into the sky.

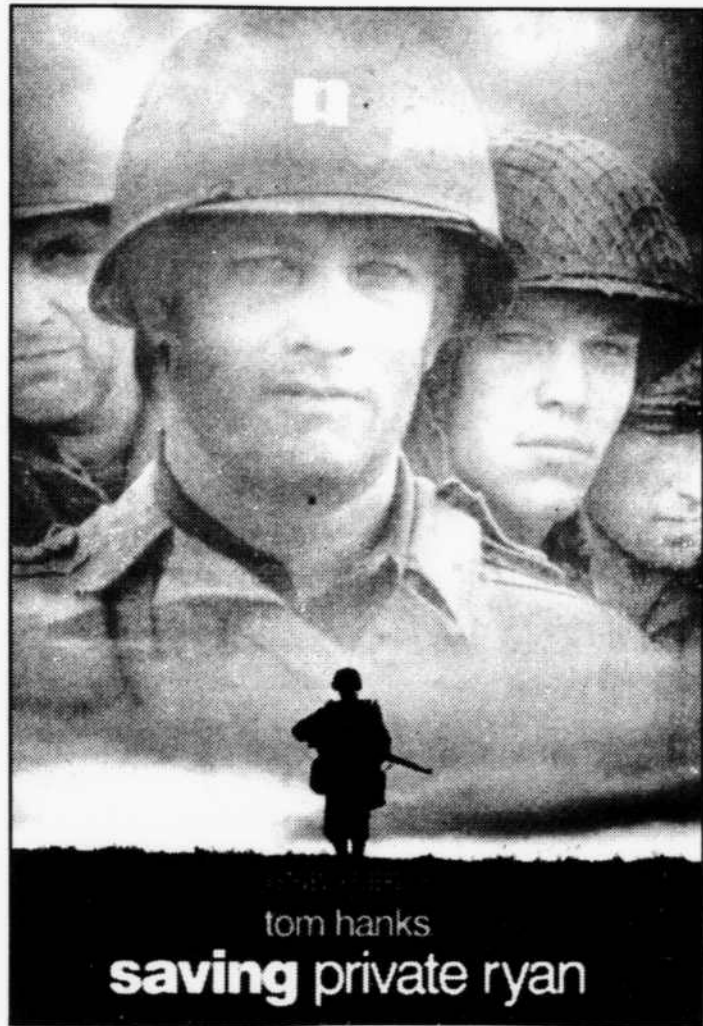
The scenes are everything the director could have wanted, and more, because the movie would have worked better without them. Having argued that war is insanity, devastating both for conquerors and conquered, Spielberg follows with a

conventional story of heroism and sacrifice. The master of illusion doesn't know what to make of disillusion.

With a running time of 170 minutes, "Saving Private Ryan" is structured like war itself, long periods of boredom between moments of the most horrifying excitement. The film has the look and the feel of greatness, but something is missing. Hanks' role is underwritten, and so is everyone else's. Despite some talented actors, including Edward Burns, Tom Sizemore and Jeremy Davies, the GIs remain character types rather than characters: a Jew, an Italian, a pencil pusher, a wisecracking New Yorker, a Bible-quoting Southerner. War may be a faceless affair, but war movies shouldn't be.

According to the production notes, Spielberg's intention was to find "decency in the hell of warfare," a search he pursued more thoughtfully in "Schindler's List." Battle footage aside, there's something naive about "Saving Private Ryan." The screenwriter, Robert Rodat, is best known for the children's film "Fly Away Home." John Williams' bland, hymnlike score feels as out of place as the casting of Ted Danson as an Army captain.

Hanks, like Spielberg a symbol of innocence and idealism, makes his first appearance in one of the director's films. Why did they wait so long? They were meant for each other, like Frank Capra and James Stewart. But "Saving Private Ryan" was the wrong project for them. Capra and Stewart, in "It's a Wonderful Life," did a better job of taking us to the abyss and back. Then again, they had just returned from the war.



Summer of near-blockbusters; not good news for studios

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Six films are on track to earn \$150 million during what may be the biggest summer movie season ever, but disappointed Hollywood executives don't know whether to break out the champagne or start firing people.

With half the summer gone, there has yet to be a blockbuster in the \$200 million to \$300 million range. "Godzilla," "Deep Impact," "Armageddon," "The Truman Show," "Mulan" and perhaps "Lethal Weapon 4" are heading toward the \$120 million to \$150 million range.

No mega-hits are on the

horizon, either. "Saving Private Ryan," which opens on Friday, likely will wow critics but may scare off many moviegoers because of its graphic violence.

"Some serious soul-searching" is going on in the studios, said industry analyst Tom Borys of ACNielsen EDI Inc. "It's a hit-driven business, and I think there's a bit of a perception of a letdown so far, even though box office in total is up."

The string of near-blockbusters, combined with well-performing smaller movies such as "Hope Floats" and "A Perfect Murder," have put the box office take 7

percent ahead of where it was at the same time last summer, which was itself a record season.

But profits are diluted by soaring production and marketing costs, as well as revenue-sharing schemes with talent and partner studios.

Meanwhile, as the slate of non-blockbuster action pictures has shown, it isn't enough anymore to appeal mainly to young male audiences to get huge summer business in an increasingly crowded marketplace.

"It's always the same problem. It's always a lot of pictures trying to get a piece of that pie," said Jeff

Blake, distribution chief at Sony, which has "Godzilla" and "The Mask of Zorro."

"When \$140 million or \$160 million isn't good enough, that's a problem. I think people are really going to have to pay attention to the costs to make sure that they can enjoy success at something under \$200 million."



James Bond memorabilia for sale

LONDON (AP) - Spy gadgets, a deadly bowler hat and a sports car that turns into a submarine are among the items to be auctioned in the most extensive sale of James Bond movie memorabilia ever, Christie's auction house said.

"We are expecting a great deal of interest in this sale from private collectors, dealers and probably some theme restaurants, too," said Carey Wallace, Christie's film and entertainment specialist.

Dozens of items will go on the block Sept. 17, including prop gems from "Diamonds Are Forever," a magnetic wristwatch used in 1971's "Live and Let Die," and the metal-rimmed bowler hat used by Goldfinger's henchman Oddjob to decapitate his enemies.

The highlight of the sale is a submarine car used in the 1977 film "The Spy Who Loved Me." It is expected to sell for \$33,000, Christie's said.

Young Rimes unhappy with politics of show business

NEW YORK (AP) - Still too young to get her driver's license, LeAnn Rimes knows where she wants to go and how to get there.

"I want to be in a feature film," Rimes says in the July 24 Entertainment Weekly. "We've been talking about bringing back 'A Star is Born.' Something along the lines of a

love story that involved my music. A film with an edge."

The 15-year-old singing sensation has learned a lot in the two years since her first single "Blue" stormed the song charts. She enjoyed instant success and won a Grammy. Then, growing up brought having to deal with her parents' divorce and a Grammy snub.

After "Con Air" producer Jerry Bruckheimer dumped her rendition of "How Do I Live" from the movie in favor of Trisha Yearwood, Rimes released her version anyway and it was a No. 1 pop hit.

When she and Yearwood were both nominated for Grammys for the song, she gave an all-out performance at the Grammy ceremonies but

Yearwood took away the award, a result that brought reports of a backstage emotional outburst, reports Rimes doesn't altogether deny.

"I wasn't a happy person," she said. "I felt betrayed. Not by fans but by people in the business. ... It's disheartening to see what the fans like and (have) politics take it from me."

Strange, but true...

Skiers may now rest in peace

PINEHURST, N.C. - People who die in this winter resort village finally have a place to cool their heels before being shipped to their final resting place.

For the first time since it was founded in 1895, Pinehurst finally has a funeral home.

Jamie Boles, owner of Boles Funeral Home, had tried since 1989 to get permission from the village to open his business. But he had to battle a zoning ordinance, a disdain for death among some residents and long-lasting legends.

"There are no undertakers and no cemeteries within the bounds of Pinehurst. It seems that it's against the law to die around here," wrote L.A. Koch in his column in the Pinehurst Outlook newspaper on Feb. 29, 1936.

Although Boles Funeral Home is enjoying a brisk business, the cemetery trade is dead. Pinehurst still does not permit cemeteries.

Customs challenges Beanie Baby smuggling

LANSING, Mich. - Beanie Babies are no longer illegal immigrants.

The maker of the much sought-after toys, Ty Inc., agreed Friday to allow international travelers to bring up to 30 of the stuffed animals into the country. The previous limit was one.

"I'm glad they loosened their grip on them," said U.S. Customs Supervisor Bill Timothy in Port

Huron, where the Blue Water Bridge links Michigan to Canada. "It makes our job easier."

Until this week, border inspectors had to tell people carrying too many Beanies from Canada to either return them or turn them over.

Customs has already seized thousands of undeclared Beanie Babies. They will probably be burned, said Pat Jones, a Customs Service spokesman in Washington.

"We don't want to throw them away because people would be going through our garbage," she said.

But Cherise Miles, spokeswoman for the Customs Service in Chicago, said the agency is holding onto seized Beanies in hopes they can be donated to charity.

Vermont farmer turned star

MONTPELIER, Vt. - He's not the first movie star to get into Republican politics, but Fred Tuttle may have had better preparation than others.

Tuttle, a 79-year-old retired dairy farmer, played himself running for Congress in the 1996 movie "Man With A Plan," a low-budget film with plenty of Vermont humor. It became a local hit and is due to be broadcast nationally on PBS this fall.

On Monday, the movie's producer and director, John O'Brien, filed official nominating papers putting Tuttle in the race for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination.

O'Brien, Tuttle's neighbor and now campaign manager, said the campaign would spend no more than \$16 in the GOP primary campaign against Jack McMullen, a Massachusetts millionaire who

became a Vermont resident last year.

"We thought (McMullen) was tremendously unqualified," O'Brien said. "But Fred's tremendously unqualified, too. So we won't hold that against Mr. McMullen."

McMullen was not available for comment. The winner of the GOP primary in September faces four-term Democratic incumbent Sen. Patrick Leahy, who promoted the movie when it was screened on Capitol Hill two years ago.

Law says eggs allowed in salad

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Gov. Pete Wilson has come to the rescue of Caesar salad lovers.

Wilson signed legislation Monday allowing restaurants to serve the salads with raw eggs in the dressing, if diners don't object.

The bill amends a statute that took effect this year and set minimum cooking standards for restaurant food.

Raw eggs are a traditional part of Caesar salads, a mixture of greens, grated cheese, anchovies, croutons and other ingredients.

"This half-baked law is now finally cooked," said the bill's sponsor, Assemblywoman Carole Migden. "I am pleased that this bill whips up a recipe combining good policy and good food as ingredients."



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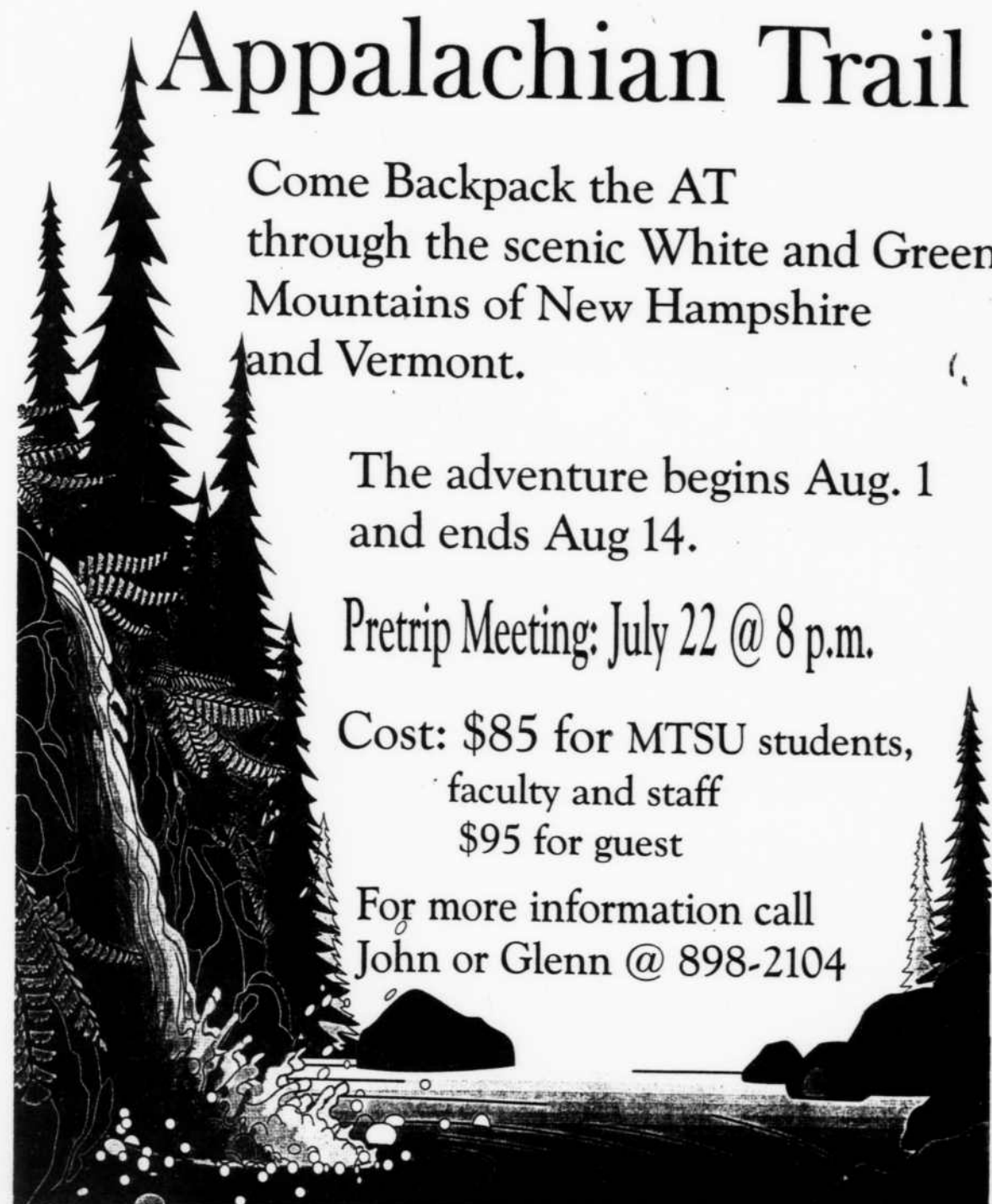
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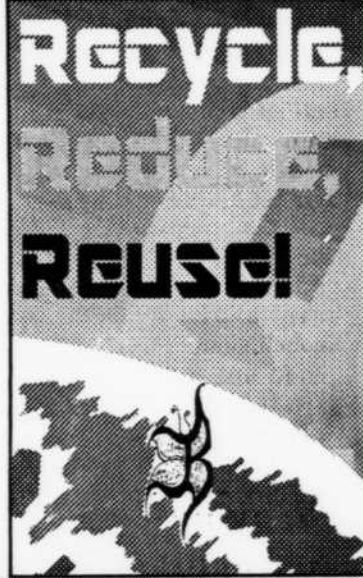
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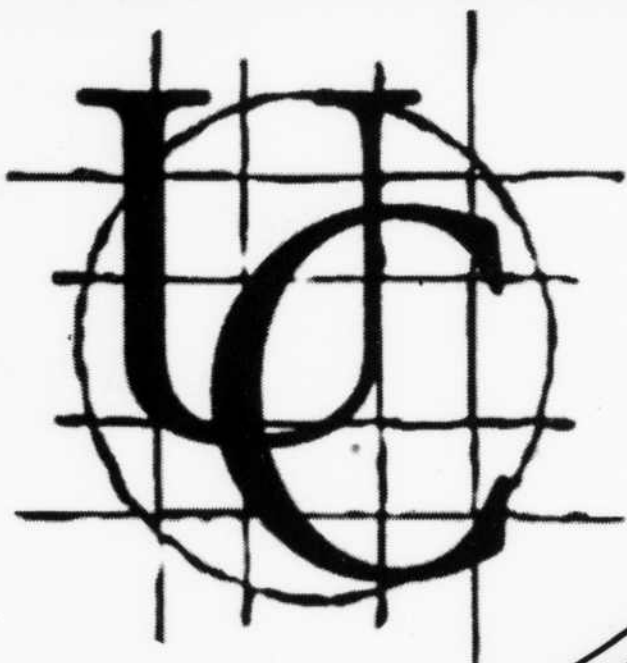
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SPORTS & RECREATION

Page 7

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Students take a back seat at the stadium

□ Bill Priestly/staff

One of the most addictive qualities of watching collegiate athletics has been observing the behavior of the student body sections. Clearly, one can say that these young individuals are the embodiment of the true sporting fan with their smart antics and youthful spirit.

They can be seen doing anything from wearing nothing but their skin and underwear (and possibly a layer of latex paint in the traditional school colors) to tarnishing the reputation of any collegiate referee with vicious boo's after "bad" calls. One might even hear them chanting to the opposing teams and their fans in various languages including Pig Latin.

Now the days of that kind of college students are dwindling. Student attendance at collegiate events has gone down by as much as half this decade alone. The University of Kentucky reported starting a campaign to try to attract students to Wildcat basketball games when student attendance dropped off by more than a third.

Both Clemson University and the University of South Carolina could not sell out their student sections for men's basketball games, unless it would be a traditionally big game against a top-ranked team.

One might think that there would be a clear cut solution to this problem, but there isn't one. Several avenues are available in coming to a conclusion, one of them more haunting than any other for athletic directors. Disinterest can come from many places.

Perhaps the stereotypical athlete

Why move and virtually take away a program's most spirited supporting cast and put it where no one can hear it and see it?

is becoming a criminal in the average fan's eyes. It is easy to check the police blotter and think that this industry is just a vortex of money and corruption surrounding the fundamental games we play — which at one point had some innocence to them, or so we thought.

Another possible trend comes from people who think the college game is nothing except the mechanism which keeps feeding the NBA and other professional leagues with the newest and latest talent.

Forget the fact that these athletes are actually people trying to get an education because realistically, the chances of becoming a professional athlete are slim to none.

But the solution that I offer is one of more immediacy for the modern college student. There was a time in which the level of student participation and spirit at those games was much higher than it is now.

One reason for that is the placement of these student sections moved from alongside the playing fields to the corners of arenas or in the end zones of football stadiums.

Why do it? Why move and virtually take away a program's most spirited supporting cast and put it where no one can hear it and would rather not see it?

It's because the people who sat in those prime seats as students decades ago have returned as "generous benefactors" that shell out their money to the athletic departments of the nation. In return, they get perks, such as season tickets to all home football and basketball games right on the 50-yard line or mid-court.

Look for the student sections at televised athletic events at football meccas like Alabama, Tennessee, Auburn, and even Notre Dame. Check basketball powerhouses like Georgia Tech, North Carolina and Kansas. Find their student sections in

Please see PRIESTLY, page 8



Please fax any information on sports and recreational activities to Sidelines at 904-8487 or call the Sports desk at 898-2816.

Football may find new friends

New Division I-A Bowl and conferences may form in 1999

□ Kin Easter/staff

A new football conference may form by the 1999 season comprised of MTSU, Louisiana Tech, Northeast Louisiana, Southwestern Louisiana, Arkansas State, Troy State and Central Florida if the NCAA bowl committee approves a Mardi Gras Bowl in Mobile, Ala. on Aug. 18.

"The whole thing stems on whether

Mobile gets a bowl," said Blue Raider Athletic Director Lee Fowler.

Blue Raider coach Donnelly is in hopes of a new bowl and conference, but is concerned about the possibility of plans being stalled due to tedious negotiations.

"First of all, the whole thing is going to be the TV bowl game," said Donnelly. "If we can get the bowl game approved and the contract signed, I think you will see a new league formed."

"If that takes place in Mobile and a lot of people anticipate it, a new league will form in 1999."

"There are a lot of ifs involved."

A bowl sponsor willing to pay \$1.5

million for the next five years is needed. Troy State, which is pushing for the bowl, claims there is a corporation that will sponsor, according to Fowler.

Fowler also stated sports network ESPN or ESPN 2 will televise the possible bowl.

Arkansas State is currently in the Big West, but can move to the new conference if invited.

MTSU feared going to Division I-A as an independent, but the new conference may form as early as 1999.

"If you can get a league established, you get motivational factors for a team," said Donnelly. "Going independent, you don't have many

motivational factors.

"You look at Louisiana Tech, they went 9-2, no bowl. No bowl even consider them."

"Motivational factors" for players may be a bowl, a conference championship or conference honors for players. As an independent team, the only honors players may receive would be all-American.

The new conference may give the Blue Raider program credibility in scheduling games with schools. An independent team may have no bargaining power scheduling games with top-name schools, according to Donnelly.

Intramurals gear up for another year

Program has increased during the two years since the Recreation Center's opening

□ Bill Priestly/staff

With the beginning of the Fall semester less than a month away, campus recreation officials are gearing up for a big intramural season.

During the first year of the Rec Center's existence, intramural participation dramatically increased in some sports, including soccer, flag football and volleyball.

Intramural consultant John Huck says he expects that trend to continue almost three years after the Rec Center opened in 1995.

"This facility nearly doubled intramural participation by itself when it was introduced and nearly doubled again the next year," Huck said.

Comparing participation figures from 1992-94 and 1995-97, Huck said that he sees great improvement in the total number of teams formed for

intramural events from 268 teams to 355.

Intramural and Outdoor Pursuits Director Wayne Taylor says that the number of teams is expected to go up again.

"Because of the availability of space we have over here, we become more attractive to the student that has a few hours of free time to come over and work out," he said. "And with four new lighted fields and a new indoor soccer facility we are constructing, we will be able to accommodate more teams."

And with the "Free Agent" program that allows single athletes to join teams needing players, virtually anyone can get on a team.

"All someone needs to do is come to the Captain's Meeting as a free agent looking for a team and if there is not a team that can take you, regularly we have had one or two teams formed of only free agents."

Huck says three leagues have been started in each sport to accommodate different levels of competition.

"We have A, B and C leagues available. The A league is the top league with the most competition. The B league is for those that may not be

the best athletes but still want to go out and play. The C league is for those that really are not out there for the competition, but more for the fun of it."

But while many students who live on or near campus would enjoy the intramural programs, Taylor says they will not cater as well to the non-traditional student or the student that lives farther away from campus.

"Generally [the non-traditional student] will be coming from Nashville and won't be able to do these nighttime activities where they will be playing at nine at night, get through at 10, shower, and then leave by 10:30 and get home at 11:30."

For those who have that kind of schedule, Taylor offers them an alternative in the Outdoor Pursuits program.

"Basically we offer opportunities to go backpacking, rafting, hiking and various other outdoor activities," says

Taylor.

Roughly half of the activities planned for the fall semester are one-day clinics that will take place at the Rec Center. There are also trips planned during the fall that range from a day backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon this November.

Other trips this fall include a venture to Atlanta for a Braves baseball game and a trip to New Orleans to see a football game between the Saints and the Dallas Cowboys.

For more information about intramurals or other opportunities, call the Recreation Center at 898-2104.

Horten goes to Jacksonville

Assistant Sports Information Director gets new position

□ Kin Easter/staff

Another familiar face in the Sports Information department will disappear.

Sports Information Director Ed Given will retire on July 31 and his assistant, Jim Horten, will leave his alma mater and head the Sports Information department at Jacksonville University in Florida.

Given and Horten were given a reception on Thursday. Horten will miss the university, but he's anxious to begin his new work. His final day at MTSU will be Thursday and he leaves for Florida on Saturday.

"I can't wait to get started," Horten said. "I wanted to get started today. Unfortunately, I have to wait."

Jacksonville sports, with its 20 programs, participates in Division I's Trans-American Athletic Conference. The student enrollment is approximately 2500.

Horten began serving Sports Information as a graduate intern in 1993. The internship gradually formed into a full-time job. He is also a 1993 MTSU graduate.

He attended high school in Chattanooga, so Horten is no stranger to Middle Tennessee.

"This is where I've been all my life. I have learned a lot here," Horten said. "I have a lot of memories and I'm leaving a lot behind."

Horten wanted to become a Sports

Information director because he believes his career would not advance to director status at MTSU, wishes to add the position at Jacksonville onto his resume and desires to take up the responsibilities of a director.

"At Jacksonville, I get to be the head of Sports Information and be in charge of Division I public relations," said Horten. "This is a good challenge and exciting opportunity."

Horten admitted making his decision was not tough.

"Any time you get to enhance your career, it's a no-brainer," he said.

Horten discovered the job opening on June 19. Three days later, he left a message on voice mail to inquire of the position. Two assistant athletic directors talked to Horten and he was given an official interview in Jacksonville on June 26.

Horten was offered the job on the morning of June 30 and accepted it that afternoon.

Jacksonville will not be playing football on Sept. 5, giving Horten a Saturday off to come watch Blue Raider football in the newly renovated stadium.

"I'll be following things up," said Horten. "[MTSU] is my alma mater."

The Jacksonville men's varsity basketball team reached the NCAA finals in 1972 and lost to the University of California in Los Angeles.

Currently the team is coached by Hugh Durham, who has 500 career wins under his belt. He also led Georgia and Florida State into the NCAA Final Four. Former Boston Celtic Dee Brown played collegiately for Jacksonville.

Ex-girlfriend says Marlins' Hernandez punched her, pulled her hair out

□ Brendan Farrington/AP

MIAMI (AP) - Livan Hernandez was so angry with his girlfriend that the Florida Marlins pitcher punched and kicked her and even plucked the hairs off her head one-by-one, according to court testimony.

Alina Elgarresta testified for 90 minutes Monday in Miami-Dade Circuit Court in an attempt to gain a permanent restraining order against Hernandez. The pitcher, through attorney Manny Vazquez, has denied

physically abusing Elgarresta.

A friend testified that she listened in on phone calls in which Hernandez called Elgarresta vulgar names and threatened her.

"When I see you I'm going to break your ass," Jeanette Gil, the accuser's best friend, said she heard Hernandez say. "I'm going to cut your hair. ... That was his favorite."

When Elgarresta tried to get away from him, he dragged her back by her hair, Elgarresta said. The first time

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Belle charged with domestic battery, missed team picture due to court hearing

□ Nancy Armour/AP

CHICAGO (AP) - Albert Belle, the bad boy of baseball, is in trouble again.

Belle was charged with domestic battery Monday and ordered to stay away from a woman who claims the Chicago White Sox outfielder hit her and then ripped her phone out of the wall when she tried to call for help. He was released on a \$3,000 signature bond.

Though he arrived at Comiskey Park late and missed the team picture because of the court hearing, Belle didn't seem upset. His surliness is legendary, but he sat and played cards with Jeff Abbott and Ray Durham while reporters milled about him in the clubhouse.

"Albert's a guy who's had a lot of different controversies in his career. He knows what's ahead," White Sox manager Jerry Manuel said. "He seems to deal with these things well. He seems to block that out and focus on the situation at hand."

But he seemed a little distracted when he took the field against the Cleveland Indians, his old team. His fielding error in the third inning led to Cleveland's first run, and he grounded out in his first two at-bats.

With Chicago fans cheering him - signs hanging over the left-field wall read, "Sox Saved by the Belle" and "Number 8 Albert Belle is Great" - Belle hit a solo homer in the sixth inning. It was his 29th home run of the season, and 11th in 13 games.

Cleveland won 5-4. "I appreciate the support of the Chicago fans. They were great to me tonight," Belle said in a statement released by the White Sox. He declined to speak with reporters.

Belle allegedly struck Stephanie Bugusky, 25, and damaged a door, a window and telephones in her apartment in Alsip, a southwest suburb, police Lt. David Snooks said. Belle did not resist when police arrived and arrested him, Snooks said.

He was charged with domestic battery, criminal damage to property and interfering with a report of domestic battery, said Bob Benjamin, a spokesman for the Cook County state's attorney. The charges are Class A misdemeanors with penalties of up to a year in jail and a \$2,500 fine for each count. He is due back in court Aug. 10. "Albert's assured me that there's no

merit to the charges brought against him here today. He has full confidence in the legal system and we're confident that he's going to be vindicated in this matter," Nick Zagotta, Belle's attorney, told reporters, declining to answer questions.

Belle and Bugusky had a "dating relationship," Snooks said, but he refused to elaborate. Bugusky did not need medical attention. Belle initially was charged with simple battery and released late Sunday after posting \$100 bail.

"Albert said there is no validity to the charge," Ron Schueler, the White Sox general manager, said in a statement. "Based on that information, the organization will not take any action at this time."

The timing of Belle's arrest couldn't be worse for both him and the White Sox. He's been on a hot streak and he was named the AL's Player of the Week on Monday for the second straight week.

The White Sox, who have struggled all season despite having Belle, Frank Thomas and Robin Ventura, were finally winning some games, too.

"Life's not perfect, but you still have to come in and do your job," said Ventura, one of the few Sox players willing to talk about Belle's arrest.

"There's nothing we can do," he said. "You always want the best for everyone involved and until you know what happened, that's all you can do."

Being in trouble is nothing new for Belle, whose erratic behavior often overshadows his powerful bat. He has been suspended six times in the past seven seasons, and he was fined \$50,000 for a profane tirade at a reporter during the 1995 World Series.

He threw a baseball at a photographer and hit a fan in the stands with a thrown ball. He also chased trick-or-treaters in his vehicle after they egged his house in Cleveland in 1995.

Bugusky told WMAQ-TV that the latest incident scared her enough to seek the order of protection, which was granted during Monday's hearing. During the court hearing, Belle tried to have Bugusky banned from the ballpark.

"We go to every home game, and I'm not going to not go," said Bugusky, who has known Belle about a year. "I'm sure that me going to the ballpark is not going to affect his performance at all."

PRIESTLY
continued from page 8

And as student participation continues to go down, the power of the "benefactor" goes up. To illustrate this point, let me refer to an event that happened this past winter.

At another educational, post-secondary university during a heated basketball game, the home team hit a very meaningful shot toward the end of the game and the student section went, for lack of a more descriptive term, berserk. Screaming, shouting, jumping and yelling to their hearts' content, these students were doing what real fans do during such a moment.

But because of their loud behavior, a "generous benefactor" sitting in the prime seats across the court floor actually asked an usher (three times no less) to go over to the student section and ask the students, "Please calm down."

In an unrelated story, the student section for MTSU's new football stadium will be in one corner of the stadium opposite

the press box. What would have been the loudest fans in the stadium (if they come) won't be able to be heard at the opposite end of the stadium. What kind of message does that send to the student? It means that the students are now the least valuable assets an athletic program has, since everyone else at that game had to dish out the cash to get in and get those prime seats.

In conclusion, here is an interesting line of thinking for future seat designers at college campuses.

Students don't go to games if they don't get good seats. Why should they?

Students then graduate with little or no respect for their athletic department for not giving them any respect.

These graduates then go out into the real world and make a great deal of money. And nearing retirement age, these alumni are asked to give a substantial portion of their earnings to support their esteemed college's athletic program.

You make the decision. It's time to let the students have their seats back.

MARLINS
continued from page 8

he hit her was when Elgarresta told him she wanted to go home and he refused to let her leave, she said.

He pinned her down with his knees and plucked hairs from her head one by one, she said. Another time, he dragged her to his bedroom, began to tear her clothes off, then looked for scissors to cut off her hair, she said.

While she calmly told her story, last year's World Series MVP did not look at her. He had his head tilted slightly down as

he listened to a translator whisper what Elgarresta said.

Elgarresta, 25, a broadcast major at Miami-Dade Community College, said she does not plan to file a civil suit against Hernandez, 23, who signed a \$6.5 million contract with the Marlins after defecting from Cuba in 1995.

She said she just wants him to leave her alone.

"I loved him and I thought I could help him and I felt sorry for him," Elgarresta said, explaining why she stayed with Hernandez and promised to marry him even after the abuse began.

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